pollution in India is responsible for almost 2.5 million premature deaths per year; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to reduce polution especially in our major cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) The study carried out by Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) is only an estimate based on a number of assumptions.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to reduce polution include the following:

(i) The Government has formulated a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisage integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution;

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(iii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas. Custom and excise duty exemptions are provided to the industries for pollution control/monitoring equipment;

(iv) A scheme for setting up of Common Effluent treatment Plants in clusters of small scale industrial units is under implementation;

(v) To promote pollution prevention in small and medium scale industries, the Government has established 15 Waste Minimisation circles in clusters of small scale industries;

(vi) Emission standards for 79 categories of industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Besides, ambient air and water quality standards have also been notified;

(vii) Large and medium scale units falling under the 17 categories of the hazardous industries are being monitored regularly for overseeing their implementation with the prescribed standards;

(viii) Low lead petrol had been introduced in the 4 metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in the above mentioned 4 cities on 1.4.1995; and

(ix) The Government is implementing a major plan of action for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles and introduction of low suplphur diesel for cleaner diesel vehicles in a phased manner. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel have been notified.

No Pollution Certificates

1068. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'No Pollution Certificates' had been given to factories spreading pollution;

(b) if not, whether Government have reviewed the functioning of the agencies issuing such certificates; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) No such instances have been brought to the notice of the Central Government. The polluting industries are required to obtain consent to establish and consent to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees.

(b) and (c) The functions of the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees are reviewed by the concerned State Governments from time to time and necessary action taken accordingly.

Ban on The Export of Plant Species

1069. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. D. MOHAN BABU:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister ofENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed any ban on the export of plant species;

(b) if so, the names of such plants and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to include some other species of plants in this list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the impact of this ban or the plants traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Earlier Export Policy had 53 plants in the negative list. The list has been reviewed on the request of traders and now negative list comprises of 29 plants only. The list of plants is given in the statement (*see* below.) Of these 23 are out of 53 plants banned earlier. Six more plants have been included in the negative list. The decision has been taken because of the fact that the species have become critically endangered in the wild. There is no restriction on export of the plants of cultivated origin, pertaining to these plants.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The export of Plants, Plant portions and their derivatives and extracts obtained from the wild as under is prohibited:

1. Beddomes cycad (Cycas beddomei)
2. Blue vanda (Vanda coerulea)
3. Saussurea costus
4. Ladies slipper orchid (Paphiopedilium species)
5. Pitcher plant (Nepenthes khasiana)
6. Red vanda (Renanthera imschootiana)
7. Reuvolifia serpentina (Sarpagandha)
8. Ceropegia species
9. Frerea indica (Shindal Mankundi)
10. Podophyllum hexandurm (emodi) (Indian Podophyllum)
11. Cyatheaceae species (Tree Ferns)
12. Cycadacea species (Cycads)
13. Dioscorea deltoidea (Elephant's foot)
14. Euphorbia species (Euphorbias)
15. Orchidaceae species (orchids)
16. Pterocarpus santalinus (Redsanders)
17. Taxus Wallichiana (Common Yew or Birmi leaves)
18. Aquilaria malaccensis (Agarwood)
19. Aconitum species
20. Coptis teeta
21. Coscinium fenestrum (Calumba wood)
22. Dactylorhiya hatagirea
23. Gentiana kurroo (Kuru, Kutki)
24. Gnetum species
25. Kampheria Galenga
26. Nardostachys grandiflora
27. Panax pseudoginseng
28. Picrorhiza kurrooa
29. Swertia chirata (Charayatah)

Recommendations of the National Plastics Waste Management Task Force

1070. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the recommendation of the National Plastics Waste Management Task force that as more than 60 percent of the plastics generated in the country